

HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report To: Council
16 July 2019

From: Chief Executive

Subject: **APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ALDERMEN**

All Wards
Scrutiny Committee

1.0 BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 The Council's Constitution makes provision for the appointment of Honorary Aldermen. This normally takes place following the election of a new Council.
- 1.2 This report asks Council to consider the recommendations of the Member Working Group and arrangements for the appointment of Honorary Aldermen.

2.0 CURRENT PRACTICE AND CRITERIA:

- 2.1 The authority to award the title comes from the Local Government Act 1972. Honorary Aldermen must, under the Act, be people who in the Council's opinion have rendered "eminent service" to the Council as past Members, but are no longer Councillors at the time of conferment. There is no definition in the Act of what constitutes "eminent service", but it is clear that it is service to the Council rather than to the community or other authorities.
- 2.2 The criteria used for consideration are that nominees must have:-
 - served at least five consecutive full terms (a minimum of 20 years); or
 - served at least four consecutive full terms (a minimum of 16 years) and served as Chairman of at least two Committees or been a Member of the Cabinet during that period.

3.0 PROCEDURES:

- 3.1 The process for recommending the appointment of Aldermen involves a Working Group of Members. This is considered to be a reasonable and appropriate forum for discussing the merits of potential candidates. The Chief Executive, at the request of the Leader, has convened a Working Group made up of one Member nominated by each political group plus the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, as specified in the Council's Constitution.
- 3.2 Those fulfilling the eligibility criteria have been considered by the Working Group and the following principles applied:-
 - the award be non-political and recognise the personal contribution made by the Councillor;
 - the award recognise an outstanding contribution to the work of the Council.

3.3 The procedure stipulates that the Working Group will make recommendations to Council which will determine the appointment of Aldermen.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP

4.1 The Working Group comprising of Councillor P Atkin, Mrs B S Fortune, M S Robson and P R Wilkinson met on Tuesday, 11 June 2019 and recommended that former Councillor, Geoff Ellis, be conferred with the title of Honorary Alderman at a special meeting of Council convened for this purpose.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Only Council can confer the title of Honorary Alderman, but recommendations can be made by a Sub-Committee or Working Group.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

6.1 There are no financial implications of this report.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION:

7.1 It is recommended that:-

- (1) Council considers and approves the recommendations of the Working Group for the appointment of Honorary Alderman; and
- (2) a special meeting of the Council be arranged to confer the title of Honorary Alderman of the District of Hambleton upon former Councillor Geoff Ellis.

DR JUSTIN IVES
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Background papers: None

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Chief Executive